



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

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Press Release
Parks and Recreation Department

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Parks and Recreation Spurs Youth Basketball League volunteer wins national Jr.NBA/Jr.WNBA Coach of the Year

Sportsmanship, leadership and a life dedicated to giving back to the community, these are just a few of the qualities that won Parks and Recreation volunteer coach Solomia Pyatkovska the title of Spurs Youth Basketball League Jr. NBA/Jr. WNBA Coach of the Year. The twenty four year old was chosen for the honor from coaches nationwide for her outstanding coaching and her strong commitment to volunteerism. After coaching the Spurs Youth Basketball League team known as the Stingrays she was nominated by Alex Charles, a Recreation Program Coordinator at the Sonny Melendrez Community Center. She was recently presented with a plaque thanking her for her dedication to youth sports.

"I love basketball, I coach, referee and play and it's very exciting working with kids because you can see how they improve so drastically and that's very rewarding," says Solomia. "I live across the street from Melendrez Community Center and they offer so many great things for free to the community so this is just a great way for me to give back."

Charles says that Solomia came to Melendrez Community Center three years ago looking to play basketball but immediately volunteered to coach when she realized there was a need. Solomia was born in the Ukraine, but came to the United States at the age of 15. She says one of the first things she saw from her New York City window were people playing basketball and from that moment on she became a big fan of the game.

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“She loves basketball and the parents notice her dedication. She carries her clipboard with her to every practice and game and she always has her kids ready to compete,” says Charles.

Solomia played basketball during high school and while attending Georgetown University where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Government. She will soon be returning to either Georgetown or Notre Dame University to pursue a Masters degree in International Affairs. Her ultimate goal is to eventually work for the United Nations.

The Parks and Recreation Department operates the Spurs Youth Basketball League at the department's 26 year-round community centers. Nearly 20,000 youth throughout San Antonio and South Texas participate in the Spurs Youth Basketball League, formerly known as the Spurs Drug-Free League.

This non-school league is funded through the Spurs Foundation and supported by several organizations throughout South Texas. All participants are members of the Jr. NBA/Jr. WNBA program.

The Spurs Youth Basketball League strives to offer young people the opportunity to play basketball, improve their athletic skills, as well as learn the importance of teamwork, cooperation, sportsmanship and discipline in a drug-free and safe environment.

League registration begins in November or early December at all Parks and Recreation Community Centers with games starting in mid January. For more information on the Spurs Youth Basketball League visit www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec or call Dave Bernal at 207-3056.